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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

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Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Noting the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact of global challenges, including the global financial and economic crisis and the ongoing food crisis, including their effects on the increasing vulnerability of populations and negative impact on effective delivery of humanitarian assistance,

[1] A/64/84-E/2009/87.
[2] A/64/327.

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Emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and in this regard recognizing the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response capacity as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change, reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] including by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness,

Recognizing that building national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 63/141 of 11 December 2008 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters,

Condemning the increasing number of deliberate violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities and the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by humanitarian emergencies, including in this respect internally displaced persons, and in this regard welcoming the adoption on 22 October 2009 of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa,

Recognizing also that 2009 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which include a vital legal framework for the protection of civilian persons in time of war, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening accountability to all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for effective response to emergencies,

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[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Recognizing that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should continue to work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the twelfth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009;[4]

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and calls upon relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors, to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening the humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the field level, including with national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing transparency, performance and accountability;

4. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including through the provision of necessary training, the identification of resources and by improving the identification of and selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] and takes note with appreciation of the 2009 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* and the outcome of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 16 to 19 June 2009, and looks forward to the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2010;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to increase resources towards disaster risk reduction measures, including for preparedness for effective response and contingency planning;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide coordinated emergency response to food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that these measures are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

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[4] See A/64/3, chap. VI. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

9. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the work of international and, as appropriate, regional organizations in supporting State efforts to improve international cooperation in disaster response, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, adopted at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007;

11. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing coordination capacities of affected States;

12. *Also encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the affected countries and relevant humanitarian and development actors, to carry out an assessment of steps taken by the United Nations and relevant partners to support efforts to strengthen local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity and to include the findings as well as recommendations to enhance United Nations support in this regard in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

14. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

15. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvements of the consolidated appeals process, inter alia, by engaging in the preparation of needs analysis and common humanitarian action plans, including through better analysis of gender-related allocations, in order to further the development of the process as an instrument for United Nations strategic planning and prioritization, and by involving other relevant humanitarian organizations in the process, while reiterating that consolidated appeals are prepared in consultation with affected States;

16. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including in disaster preparedness and needs assessment, take into account the specific needs of the affected population,

recognizing that giving appropriate consideration to, inter alia, gender, age and disability, is part of a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response;

17. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability, and make further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

18. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded emergencies, and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, and encourages efforts to adhere to the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship;[5]

19. *Welcomes* the important achievements made by the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund in order to ensure that the resources are used in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner possible;

20. *Calls upon* all Member States and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider increasing voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

21. *Reiterates* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

22. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

23. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, as provided for by national law and obligations under international law;

24. *Urges* all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to reducing such violence, and in support services to victims of such violence;

25. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[6] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together in collaboration with host communities in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for

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[5] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

[6] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for capacity-building efforts of States;

26. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow them to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report back on action taken by the United Nations Secretariat to develop and apply special emergency rules and procedures to ensure the quick disbursement of emergency funds, expeditious procurement of emergency supplies and equipment and the rapid recruitment of staff in order to improve the overall response to humanitarian emergencies;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.